

ABERDEEN AREA TRIBAL CHAIRMEN'S HEALTH BOARD

RESOLUTION NO. 2002-015

(for clarity, this is a reproduction of the original faxed document, other than the Certification section)

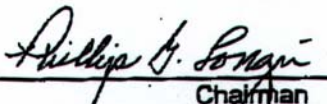
- PURPOSE:** **Approval to publish the Results of the Aberdeen Area Infant Mortality Study “Mi Cinca kin towani ewaktonji kte sni” “I will never forget my child.”**
- WHEREAS,** the Aberdeen Area Tribal Chairmen's Health Board (AATCHB) is composed of seventeen (17) Tribes and one (1) Service Unit in the four states of North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Iowa; and
- WHEREAS,** Sovereign Tribes have an absolute right to health care from the Federal Government, based on treaty rights, on Congressional Acts, Federal Court decisions, and on the Federal Government's trust responsibility to Indian Tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** the AATCHB is primarily responsible for advocating for better health and addressing the needs of the Indian Tribes in the Aberdeen Area; and
- WHEREAS,** the rate of infant deaths in the Aberdeen Area population is more than twice the national average and one of the highest rates of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) for which there is no medical explanation; and
- WHEREAS,** prompted by this phenomena, in 1992 the Perinatal Infant Mortality Review (PIMR) Committee of the Aberdeen Area Indian Health Service in partnership with the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and the Aberdeen Area Tribal Chairmen's Health Board (AATCHB) formed a Steering Committee to pursue funding and research to investigate the cause or causes of infant deaths; and
- WHEREAS,** children and particularly infants are considered sacred beings according to Northern Plains Tribal philosophy and therefore, are honored and revered among the adults and the passing into the spirit world of a sacred being creates a great concern regarding this event; and
- WHEREAS,** the study was completed in 2001 and the findings reported by two of the researchers, Leslie Randall and Dr. Hannah Kinney at the Quarterly Board Meeting, February 21, 2002, in Aberdeen, South Dakota, detailing the outcomes found in 72 deaths. Some of the causes can be attributed to smoking and alcohol use as well as age and education of mothers and lack of perinatal health care while pregnant; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that because of the importance of this study to prevention of future infant deaths, the AATCHB approves the above named study for publication in scientific journals and distribution in scientific circles; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the AATCHB approves the above named study for publication on the Indian Health Service website.

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the AATCHB on February 21, 2002, at the Ramkota Inn, Aberdeen, South Dakota by a vote of 4 ~~4~~ FOR; 0 OPPOSED; 0 ~~0~~ NOT VOTING. MOTION CARRIED.



Chairman
AATCHB Chairman of the Board
Chairman Spirit Lake Chairman Santee Sioux Tribe



Secretary
AATCHB Treasurer